

April 27, 2008

The need and importance of Christian radio is incredible. The world is bombarded by negative and biased news casting, violent, sexually and immorally explicit programming in TV, radio, music, movies and advertisements, as well as crude, vulgar and politically enraged comments by radio announcers 24/7. The ability to tune that out by turning to a Christian radio station is paramount. The variety of Christian radio ranges from teaching exclusively - to music only - to a mixture of both. The types of music are unending from country to rap to rock to gospel to contemporary or any mixture in between.

Because my Christian radio station is listener funded I have a say in what type programming I want to listen to and the ability to change to a different Christian station if I choose. Most Christian stations have Listener Advisory Panels and adjust to what the subscribers are saying. I don't have that with commercial based or Federally funded stations. Some Christian stations may be biased in the types of teaching messages/music they provide, however, K-Love is a very cross-denominational station and stays away from "pushing" any one denomination on anyone. I don't have that freedom with any Federally funded secular stations, other than to change to a Christian station.

K-Love Radio news covers important events of the day but with as upbeat encouragement as possible. For example when a school shooting occurred the event was reported without sensationalizing every gory detail or doing a feed loop for endless hours. Encouragement and prayers were offered to all effected by the situation and these messages went throughout the world, not just on a local level. Should local advisory boards that include all walks of life be put into practice these important fundamentals of Christian radio will be drastically hindered if not completely shut down. It is my right to listen to the station of my choice. It is not my right to tell another American what he can or cannot listen to. I believe that would become the case with community based advisory boards in any part of the country.

The idea of *any* radio station is to provide its' message to its listeners. The prospect of reporting every three months on interests provided to a cross-section of local residents is extremely cumbersome and anti-American. Our rights are to listen to whatever we choose, not to legislate the way it is presented. If that were the case, the likes of "Shock Jocks" would have been completely shut down by now. There is a demand to listen to that type programming and those who wish, listen. No different with Christian radio.

Increasing cost to Christian radio stations would diminish the effectiveness by reducing the number of stations it could provide. Because Christian radio is not typically financially supported by advertisements, their budgets are smaller. Adding increased personnel costs to those budgets greatly reduces their ability to present quality programming. To insist that main studios be relocated is again what appears to be an undermining strategy to reduce Christian radio.

As an American Christian I firmly recommend not legislating away my rights to listen to the radio station of my choosing by bending to strong armed lobbyists or any specialized group.

Respectfully,

Kim Selin